

Aiding Defense Agencies:



CHARLES L. DANCEY

By WILLIAM PRATER

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While a reporter should not be in the pay of the government, it is his duty to aid defense agencies like the Central Intelligence Agency, the editor of The Journal Star said yesterday.

He also said he may be among 400 journalists Rolling Stone magazine says cooperated with the spy agencies in the 1950s.

"Good gracious!" Charles L. Dancey said in an editorial yesterday. "Could it be that I, too, am one of the Big Bad Cloak and Dagger Boys working for the CIA? By the rules of journalism used by Rolling Stone, could be!"

Dancey said in an interview he toured the Soviet Union alone in 1959, visiting, among other places, Moscow, Odessa, Yalta and Stalingrad. When he returned home, Dancey said, he was visited by a man who identified himself as with the CIA and "asked me some questions about the trip."

"I handed him my log book and told him he was welcome to read it. But all the material could be read in a fuller form in the articles published in The Journal Star. He thanked me, borrowed the little pad of memory notes, and some time later returned it to me."

"Big deal."

Dancey said, "I think the whole 'hoo-rah' among members of the press (about journalists cooperating with the spy agency) is not a moralistic question at all but one of practicality. We'd like to be able to announce to the world that you can trust us with anything."

The defense of the United States "is a life and death

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Duty Of A News Reporter, Dancey Says

question," he added. "We (newspeople) are citizens, not someone working in a vacuum."

If a reporter was paid by the government, "that would be a clear conflict of interest," Dancey said. But in questions of national defense, "I don't think we have the right to withhold evidence from authorities."

Little happened on his trip that would have interested the CIA, Dancey said, except that he was kept in isolation at an unscheduled stop in the Ural Mountains, where Francis Gary Powers was later shot down in his U-2 spy plane.

"I must cheerfully admit that if anything had happened which I perceived significant regarding the defense of the United States, I would certainly have told our government about it, via the CIA or whatever," Dancey said in the editorial. "I am not a citizen of the moon. This is my country."

Asked about cooperation with police and other domestic authorities, Dancey said: "I don't have any set philoso-

phy . . . about such dealings within the United States. . . Also, I don't think we should have to set standards (of conduct) for other people."

He said he visited the Soviet Union again in 1965, but was not questioned by the CIA then or later.

An extensive account of his travels in the Soviet Union was used in The Journal Star, and reprinted later in the year virtually intact in the Congressional Record at the request of U.S. Rep. Robert H. Michel, a Peoria Republican.